

I urge you to vote yes on Question 1, which increases our jail district sales tax from .3 to .5%. My reasons are:

- Arizona requires every county to provide and fund a jail.
- Increases in federal and state unfunded mandates, mean locally we have more to pay for.
- The jail is now running at a deficit. In 1996 the Jail District Citizen's Task Force recommended a .5% sales tax. The Board of Supervisors requested a .3% tax, which voters approved. Had the recommended .5% been approved, the jail would now be running at a surplus.

Without this tax increase, the County general fund will have to cover the jail deficit, meaning many programs, jobs, and salaries will have to be cut.

- Part of the tax increase will fund a substance abuse program. The jail is a revolving door for addicts. The new treatment program will reduce crime.
- When the .3% tax was created and the new jail built, it was expected that some funding would come from bed rentals to state and federal convicts. However, that has not materialized as expected.
- Pressures on our criminal justice system have increased in many ways, including seriousness of the crimes are worsening, stricter DUI & felony laws regarding arrest, and increase in arrests of non-U.S. and non-local citizens.

I was privileged to serve on the current Citizen's Task Force that recommended this increase. We spent several months hearing from each department of the criminal justice system, asking hard questions and getting honest answers. I'm confident that our taxes are being spent efficiently and wisely. I, for one, feel that it is our responsibility to approve this tax in order to keep Flagstaff the great place that it is to live. Please vote yes!

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